

52, including two Southeastern Conference titles, seven SEC Eastern Division titles and the 1998 National Championship.

A Winchester, Tennessee native, Phil graduated from Franklin County High School and went on to UT where he played offensive guard for the Volunteers' football team. Phil and his team completed the 1969–71 seasons with a combined record of 30-5, capturing the SEC Championship in 1969 and winning the 1971 Liberty Bowl.

After graduating from UT in 1972, Phil began coaching as a graduate assistant in 1972, serving as linebacker coach and defensive coordinator for UT's freshman team. From 1974–78, he left UT to coach at Wichita State University and later Vanderbilt University.

Phil returned to his alma mater in 1980 as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator. In 1992, he became the 20th head football coach of the Volunteers. During his tenure, Tennessee had 17 All-American selections, went to 14 bowl games and produced 16 First Round NFL draft picks. Phil was named 1998 National Coach of the Year by Sporting News, the Football Writers Association of America, the American Football Coaches Association, and the Maxwell Football Club. In 1999, he won the State Farm Eddie Robinson National Coach of Distinction Award. Phil was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. Most recently, he was inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, in 2008.

UT will always be a special place for Phil, having spent more than 34 years there as a coach, student-athlete and a father of four UT students—Phillip, Jr.; Courtney; Brittany; and Allison, who plays on the UT softball team. Phil will continue helping his alma mater as a special assistant to UT President John Peter-son.

I wish Phil, his wife, Vicky, and their family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITALMAN
MARK A. JAMES, UNITED
STATES NAVY SCOTSDALE
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO
MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members that perform diligent service to this country. For the month of November, they have recognized Mark A. James, Hospitalman 3rd Class, United States Navy.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Hospitalman 3rd Class James displayed an early interest in military service through his participation in the Junior ROTC program offered by his high school. After graduation in 2005, Hospitalman James joined the U.S. Navy. He completed his boot camp training and hospital corpsman courses at Naval Station Great Lakes in Great Lakes, Illinois. After

finishing initial training, Hospitalman James was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, and was also deployed for one tour in Kuwait.

After completing his service in Japan, Hospitalman James is currently on his way to joining the crew of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, which is an aircraft carrier based out of Everett, Washington. Hospitalman James has received the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Expert Rifle Badge, and a Certificate of Achievement, and is looking forward to a career in naval medicine as a physician's assistant.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this brave citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow servicemen in combat.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALTON YATES

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life achievements of Mr. Alton Yates, a man of many talents and passions who, by his own convictions and beliefs in the dignity of human kind, paved the way for so many to achieve their goals, and influence the course of history.

Alton Yates was born of modest yet proud means, the second of seven children, raised in the powerful and nurturing shadow of his father, a man of principles, character and determination. His father instilled in him the need to achieve beyond your born station in life, and by so doing help to sew in the fabric of humanity threads of decency, respect, and quest for the betterment of mankind. Alton Yates accomplished his earlier goals, and those of his father by making sure all that was available to him through education and interaction, he would absorb and be nurtured by this new found knowledge. Here is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment. He is not only a pioneer in the early days of the space program and the civil rights movement, Alton Yates went on to a successful career in city government and business. He was a pioneer in the early days of the space program as a volunteer for a program that would test the effects of space flight on the human body. This was America's first efforts to put a man in space and to ensure that man could survive in space. Likewise, as we celebrate the historic inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America, this journey for him and all of us, including Alton Yates began before he was born. Alton Yates was there at the beginning. He sat down at lunch counters, time and time again, often suffering human indignity and physical abuse at the hands of those who would seek to deny him, and us, our piece of the American dream, simply, and only because of the color of one's skin. Alton Yates and others like him paved the way that has led to the election of an African-American President-Elect. Alton Yates never recoiled from the responsibility of family, community, and service to mankind.

From the early days of segregation, to the chance to help establish this nation's space

program, as an African-American, to his ability to serve and protect the ideals of equality and personal responsibility, we are indebted to Alton Yates for his courage and his belief in the sanctity and strength of the human spirit.

We acknowledge his wife of 48 years, former Jacksonville City Councilwoman, Gwendolyn Yates for her individual achievements and the support she and family has given to Alton that has allowed him to soar to great heights, as a man, a husband, a father, a pioneer, and a civil rights leader and gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA L. FRANCO

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, in my years of public service, I have benefitted from the efforts of many capable employees on my staff who have come and gone. Yet there has always remained one constant in my office, Martha Franco, and for that I am truly grateful.

Martha was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. Her parents, Maria and Doroteo Franco and her siblings, Jeronimo, Humberto, Benilde, Bertha, Oscar, Abel, Hector, Dinora and Gloria all emigrated to the United States where they settled in the small town of Colusa, California. As a naturalized citizen, she is a model example of someone who made the efforts required to become a U.S. citizen and has gone on to contribute to our country through public service. She is also active in helping needy families in the Sacramento area and from the small village in Mexico where her family is from. Martha first came to work for me in 1984 when I served in the California State Senate.

When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Martha became my Executive Assistant and Office Manager. She has worked for me in Washington and in California, and this year I named her as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Martha's loyal presence has meant so much to my wife, Julie, to me, and to our entire organization. The people who call upon our office have appreciated seeing a familiar face through the years, and I have appreciated having someone who knows the many people who have been important to us throughout my career. Martha's unsurpassed character and dedication have allowed me to trust her with confidential and sensitive materials and to do so with great confidence.

Martha's spirit is demonstrated by her commitment to family and heritage as well. She cares for her father at home and is a wonderful aunt to her many nieces and nephews, their beloved "Tia Mart". I know she is looking forward to spending even more time with her large family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

While our work together will soon end, Martha will always remain an important person in our lives. As she looks to new opportunities, I wish Martha all the best, and look forward to her continued friendship in the years to come.